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**PATENT**

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant: John W. Hoffman et al. Docket No.: 18996  
Serial No.: 10/750,016 Group No.: unknown  
Confirmation No.: unknown Examiner: unknown  
Filed: December 30, 2003  
For: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR APPLYING AN ELASTIC MEMBER

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Information Disclosure Statement Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)  
Before First Office Action or Within Three Months of Filing Date  
2 Page(s) of PTO Form 1449  
14 Document(s)

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**Information Disclosure Statement Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)  
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Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.56 and in accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.97 et seq., Applicants, through and by their attorneys, hereby wish to direct the Examiner's attention to the documents listed on the attached modified PTO 1449 Form. A copy of each non-U.S. patent document and a copy of each non-patent document listed on the form is also presented herewith for the Examiner's review and convenience. Cited U.S. patents and U.S. patent application publications are not included in accordance with the U.S. Patent Office waiver of the requirement under 37 C.F.R. 1.98 (a)(2)(i) for submitting a copy of each cited U.S. patent and each U.S. patent application publication for all U.S. national patent applications filed after June 30, 2003, and for all international applications that have entered the national stage under 35 USC 371 after June 30, 2003.

By inclusion of any given document in this Information Disclosure Statement, Applicants in no way admit that such document is effective as prior art against the above-identified application under either 35 U.S.C. 102 or 35 U.S.C. 103.

Additionally, submission of any document is not to be taken as an admission of the materiality of the document to the prosecution of the present application.

The Examiner is requested to review each cited document and personally determine its prior art status.

Applicants recommend that the Examiner conduct an independent search for any and all available material prior art and independently review the results of such search and the documents cited within this Statement.

Applicants request the Examiner, in accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.97, to indicate and make of record receipt and review of all of these documents by initialing the appropriate box in the accompanying PTO-1449. Applicants request that the undersigned receive a copy of the initialed PTO-1449.


If the Examiner refuses to consider any or all of the herein submitted materials because it is the Examiner's opinion that this Information Disclosure Statement is not in compliance with 37 C.F.R. 1.97, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner notify the undersigned, in writing, as to the basis of such opinion.

Please charge any prosecutorial fees which are due to Kimberly-Clark Worldwide, Inc. deposit account number 11-0875.

The undersigned may be reached at: 920-721-3862.

Respectfully submitted,

JOHN W. HOFFMAN ET AL.

By:   
John L. Brodersen

Registration No.: 51,236

## List of Patents and Publications for Information Disclosure Statement



Applicant(s): John W. Hoffman et al.  
 Serial No.: 10/750,016  
 Filed: December 30, 2003

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 Group: Unknown  
 Examiner: unknown

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS							
Initial		Doc. No.	Date	Name	Clas	Subclas	Filing
	A1	3,833,973	09/1974	Schwarz			
	A2	4,704,116	11/1987	Enloe			
	A3	4,770,656	09/1988	Proxmire et al.			
	A4	4,808,176	02/1989	Kielpikowski			
	A5	4,822,435	04/1989	Igaue et al.			
	A6	4,834,738	05/1989	Kielpikowski et al.			
	A7	4,834,740	05/1989	Suzuki et al.			
	A8	4,842,596	06/1989	Kielpikowski et al.			
	A9	4,846,825	07/1989	Enloe et al.			
	A10	4,916,005	04/1990	Lippert et al.			
	A11	4,936,840	06/1990	Proxmire			
	A12	5,000,806	03/1991	Merkatoris et al.			
	A13	5,061,261	10/1991	Suzuki et al.			
	A14	5,064,489	11/1991	Ujimoto et al.			
	A15	5,176,672	01/1993	Bruemmer et al.			
	A16	5,296,080	03/1994	Merkatoris et al.			
	A17	5,308,345	05/1994	Herrin			
	A18	5,462,541	10/1995	Bruemmer et al.			
	A19	5,496,298	03/1996	Kuepper et al.			
	A20	5,527,302	06/1996	Endres et al.			
	A21	5,560,793	10/1996	Ruscher et al.			
	A22	5,569,232	10/1996	Roe et al.			
	A23	5,705,013	01/1998	Nease et al.			
	A24	5,853,881	12/1998	Estey et al.			
	A25	5,897,545	04/1999	Kline et al.			
	A26	5,910,136	06/1999	Hetzler et al.			
	A27	5,957,908	09/1999	Kline et al.			
	A28	6,111,168	08/2000	Raboy			

EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include a copy of this form with your next communication.

Examiner:

Date Considered:

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U.S. Patent Documents							
Initials		Doc. No.	Date	Name	Class	Subclass	Filing Date
	A29	6,120,487	09/2000	Ashton			
	A30	6,278,037	08/2001	Schmidt et al.			
	A31	6,359,192	03/2002	Schmidt et al.			
	A32	6,406,466	06/2002	Pozniak et al.			
	A33						
	A34						

Foreign Patent Documents								
Initials		Doc. No.	Date	Country	Class	Subclass	Trans.	
							Yes	No
	A1	EP 0 773 769 B1	11/2000	Europe			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	A2	EP 0 869 756 B1	10/2002	Europe			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	A3	GB 2 291 783 A	07/1996	Great Britain			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	A4	JP H3-114223	11/1991	Japan			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	A5	JP H4-32718	03/1992	Japan			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	A6	JP 01-132803 A	05/1989	Japan (English Abstract)			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	A7	JP 04-067864 A	03/1992	Japan (English Abstract)			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	A8	JP 05-137754 A	06/1993	Japan (English Abstract)			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	A9	WO 00/19950 A1	04/2000	World - PCT			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	A10	WO 00/19951 A1	04/2000	World - PCT			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	A11	WO 00/20206 A1	04/2000	World - PCT			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	A12	WO 00/20207 A1	04/2000	World - PCT			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	A13	WO 00/37006 A1	06/2000	World - PCT			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	A14	WO 01/39709 A1	06/2001	World - PCT			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Other Documents		
Initials		Author, Title, Date, Pages, etc.
	A1	
	A2	
	A3	

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